From: William Nau
To: microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov
Date: 1/23/02 8:57pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I was informed that this e-mail address is inviting opinion on the
proposed Microsoft settlement. If that is not the case, I apologize.

You may consider me to be an extremist and Microsoft hater. I won't
call you wrong. I am baffled as to how the proposed settlement is any
form of punishment for deeds done.

From my understanding, the proposed settlement helps Microsoft further
strengthen their existing monopoly by allowing (forcing?) them to
further inject their software into our schools.

If I interpret the settlement correctly, Microsoft will be monitored
for anti-monopolistic practices for a given period of time. If they
conduct monopolistic practices during that period, the monitoring will
be extended. How is that punishment?

I've watched Microsoft destroy, through their monopoly, products much
more important the web browsers. They've used their monopoly to
destroy word processors, spreadsheets, network diagram software,
presentation software, and even operating systems. As I watch
Microsoft take over other markets (embedded operating systems, embedded
software, internet services, etc) with inferior products, I'm troubled.
I fear the future, and lack of potential progress, if Microsoft
doesn't receive discouragement for their past, present, and future
acts.

Internet Explorer vs. Netscape Navigator (and tons of other, now dead,
browsers) is just scratching the surface. It is their illegally
obtained (my opinion) monopoly on the operating system that must be
addressed.

It disturbs me to try and comprehend all of the companies that have
gone out of business and people that have lost their jobs, not to
mention innovation lost, due to destruction of competition. In a
capitalistic society, competitiveness provides innovation. That's not
happening here. The monolith needs to be stopped, if not destroyed.

If you're still reading, I truly thank you for your time.

 - William Nau

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